

List of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A nonwoven fibrous mat having a smooth surface for coating, the smooth surface having a reduced amount of "stand up fibers", compared to a conventional nonwoven fibrous mat in which all of the glass fibers have a length of about 0.5 inch, comprising a blend of fibers of at least two different lengths falling within the range of about 0.12 inch and about 0.6 inch bound together with a cured binder, the binder content of the mat being in the range of about 10-25 weight percent of the finished mat, the fibers having an average fiber diameter in the range of about 9 and about 14 microns and about 25 to about 50 wt. percent fibers having a length of less than about 0.4 inch long and about 75 to about 50 wt. percent fibers having a length at least about 0.45 inch long.
2. (Original) The mat of claim 1 wherein the binder is selected from a group consisting of an acrylic, a polyvinyl alcohol, a hydroxyl ethyl cellulose, a carboxyl methyl cellulose, a cellulose gums, a polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl acetate, urea formaldehyde, melamine formaldehyde, with or without a crosslinking agent, with or without one or more plasticizers, and mixtures thereof.
3. (Original) The mat of claim 1 wherein about half of the fiber is at least about 0.45 inch long and a remainder of the fiber is less than about 0.4 inch long.
4. (Previously presented) The mat of claim 1 wherein the mat contains about 75 wt. percent fiber that is at least about 0.45 inch long and about 25 wt. percent fiber that is about 0.2 inch long.
5. (Currently amended) A laminate comprising a layer of nonwoven fiber mat having a smooth surface for coating, the smooth surface having a reduced amount of "stand up fibers", compared to a conventional nonwoven fibrous mat in which all of the glass fibers have a length of about 0.5 inch, and comprising a blend of fibers of at least two different lengths falling within the range of about 0.12 inch and about 0.8

inch bound together with a cured binder, the binder content of the mat being in the range of about 10-25 weight percent of the finished mat, the fibers having an average fiber diameter in the range of about 9 and about 14 microns, and about 25 to about 50 wt. percent fibers having a length of less than about 0.4 inch long and about 75 to about 50 wt. percent fibers having a length at least about 0.45 inch long, a surface of said mat being bonded to at least one layer of different material.

6. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein the binder is selected from a group consisting of an acrylic, a polyvinyl alcohol, a hydroxyl ethyl cellulose, a carboxyl methyl cellulose, a cellulose gums, a polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyvinyl acetate, urea formaldehyde, melamine formaldehyde, with or without a crosslinking agent, with or without one or more plasticizers, and mixtures thereof.
7. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein about half of the fiber is at least about 0.45 inch long and a remainder of the fiber is less than about 0.4 inch long.
- 8.. (Original) The mat of claim 5 wherein the mat contains about 75 wt. percent fiber that is at least about 0.45 inch long and about 25 wt. percent fiber that is about 0.2 inch long.

9-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The mat of claim 1 wherein about half of the fiber is at least about 0.45 inch long and a remainder of the fiber is less than about 0.4 inch long.
15. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein about half of the fiber is at least about 0.45 inch long and a remainder of the fiber is less than about 0.4 inch long.